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The Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) was originally designed to ensure very wealthy individuals do not avoid paying income tax. The tax now threatens to impact middle-class families and raise taxes on 23 million Americans if Congress fails to take action.

At a press conference today, members of the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition joined House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer in calling on the Senate to uphold its commitment to fiscal responsibility. Wilson is a member of the Blue Dogs. The group urged Senate leaders to pass legislation providing relief of the AMT that is fiscally responsible and adheres to the pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) standard of fiscal discipline.

Under the leadership of the Blue Dogs and the new Democratic-controlled Congress, every bill passed by the House this year has complied with PAYGO rules, including legislation providing AMT relief without adding to the \$9 trillion national debt.

“Last week, the Senate passed an AMT fix, but the Senate didn’t pay for the tax relief and didn’t adhere to fiscally responsible pay-as-you-go principles,” Wilson explained. “I was proud to pass a second AMT fix in the House tonight that was once again, fully paid for.”

The Temporary Tax Relief Act of 2007 protects 23 million middle-class families from being hit by the Alternative Minimum Tax and includes provisions that offer tax relief to working families. The bill also helps 12 million children by expanding the child tax credit.

In an effort to reach out to Senate Republicans, this new measure is paid for by closing tax loopholes that allow hedge fund managers and corporate CEOs to use offshore tax havens as

unlimited retirement accounts.

“This is the right thing to do,” Wilson said. “It is possible to pass a tax cut and successfully pay for it. If we continue to be blocked by Senate Republicans, middle class American families are the ones who will pay – and that’s not fair,” Wilson said.

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